

REMARKS

Claims 1-27 are pending in this application. Original independent claims 1, 10, and 19, are canceled herein. Claim 2, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 1 and original claim 2. Claim 8, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 1 and original claim 8.

Claim 11, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 10 and original claim 11. Claim 17, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 10 and original claim 17.

Claim 20, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 19 and original claim 20. Claim 26, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 20 and original claim 26.

Claim 4 is amended herein to depend from claim 2, as amended herein. Claim 13 is amended herein to depend from claim 11, as amended herein. Claim 22 is amended herein to depend from claim 20, as amended herein.

No new matter has been entered. Reexamination and reconsideration of the application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 10, and 19, stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,411,008).

Claims 4, 5, 6, 7, 13, 14, 15, 16, 22, 23, 24, and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,801,853).

Claims 2, 3, 8, 9, 11, 12, 17, 18, 20, 21, 26, and 27, stand objected to as depending from

a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all the elements of the base claim.

Claim 2, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 1 and original claim 2. The Examiner indicated that claim 2, as amended herein, is allowable.

Original claim 3 depends from claim 2, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claim 3, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 2, as amended herein. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 3, as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 4 is amended herein to depend from claim 2, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claim 4, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 2, as amended herein. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4 as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the

claim to which it refers.” Therefore, claims 5 and 6, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 4, as amended herein. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 4, as amended, is patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore d’Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al. This being the case, Applicants further respectfully submit that claims 5 and 6, as amended herein, are patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore d’Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 7 depends from claim 6. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” Therefore, claim 7, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 6, as amended herein. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 6, as amended, is patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore d’Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al. This being the case, Applicants further respectfully submit that claim 7, as amended herein, is patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore d’Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 8, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 1 and original claim 8. The Examiner indicated that claim 8, as amended herein, is allowable.

Claim 9, as amended herein, depends from claim 8, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” Therefore, claim 9, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 8, as amended herein. “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). The Examiner indicated that claim 8, as amended herein, would be allowable. This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 9, as amended herein, is patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore

d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 11, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 10 and original claim 11. The Examiner indicated that claim 11, as amended herein, is allowable.

Original claim 12 depends from claim 11, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claim 12, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 11, as amended herein. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 12, as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 13, as amended herein, depends from claim 11, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claim 13, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 11, as amended herein. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13, as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claims 14 and 15 depend from claim 13. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the

claim to which it refers.” Therefore, claims 14 and 15, as amended herein, include the elements of claim 13, as amended herein. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 13, as amended, is patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore d’Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al. This being the case, Applicants further respectfully submit that claims 14 and 15, as amended herein, are patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore d’Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 16, as amended herein, depends from claim 15, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” Therefore, claim 16, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 15, as amended herein. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15, as amended, is patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore d’Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al. This being the case, Applicants further respectfully submit that claim 16, as amended herein, is patentable over d’Alayer de Costemore d’Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 17, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 16 and original claim 17. The Examiner indicated that claim 17, as amended herein, is allowable.

Original claim 18 depends from claim 17, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, “a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers.” Therefore, claim 18, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 17, as amended herein. “If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious.” MPEP 2143.03; *In*

re Fine, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 18, as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 20, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 19 and original claim 20. The Examiner indicated that claim 20, as amended herein, is allowable.

Original claim 21 depends from claim 20, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claim 21, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 20, as amended herein. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21, as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 22 is amended herein to depend from claim 20, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claim 22, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 20, as amended herein. "If an independent claim is nonobvious under 35 U.S.C. 103, then any claim depending therefrom is nonobvious." MPEP 2143.03; *In re Fine*, 837 F.2d 1071, 5 USPQ2d 1596 (Fed.Cir. 1988). This being the case, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22, as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

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Claims 23 and 24 depend from claim 22. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claims 23 and 24, as amended herein, include the elements of claim 22, as amended herein. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 22, as amended, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al. This being the case, Applicants further respectfully submit that claims 23 and 24, as amended herein, are patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 25 depends from claim 24, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claim 25, as amended herein, includes the elements of claim 24, as amended herein. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 24, as amended, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al. This being the case, Applicants further respectfully submit that claim 25, as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Claim 26, as amended herein, is an independent claim that includes the elements of claim 19 and original claim 26. The Examiner indicated that claim 20, as amended herein, is allowable.

Claim 27 depends from claim 26, as amended herein. Under 35 U.S.C. § 112, fourth paragraph, "a claim in dependent form shall be construed to incorporate by reference all the limitations of the claim to which it refers." Therefore, claim 27, as amended herein, includes

the elements of claim 26, as amended herein. For the reasons set forth above, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 26, as amended, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al. This being the case, Applicants further respectfully submit that claim 27, as amended herein, is patentable over d'Alayer de Costemore d'Arc et al. in view of Lewis et al.

Having dealt with all of the outstanding objections and/or rejections of the claims, Applicants submit that the application as amended is in condition for allowance, and an allowance at an early date is respectfully solicited. In the event there are any fee deficiencies or additional fees are payable, please charge them, or credit an overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 502262.

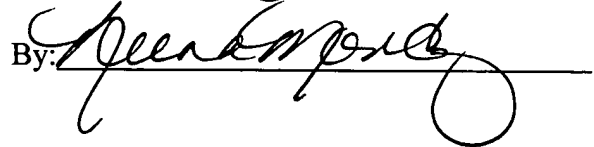
Respectfully submitted,



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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450 on February 1, 2005, at Tucson, AZ.

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Corrected Drawings

In the November 1, 2004 Office Action, the Examiner requested a new set of drawings because the original drawings were sketchy due to the copying process. In compliance therewith, formal drawings are attached hereto at Attachment "A".

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